

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 03289 040532Z

10

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 055101

R 040455Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7343

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 3289

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PGOV, BG, US

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH FREIGHT AGENT IN WASHINGTON

1. CALLING ME URGENTLY TO HIS OFFICE JULY 4, PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC ADVISOR, DR. SATTER, EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED HIM TO SEEK MY ADVICE ON A MATTER WHICH THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO. HE RECALLED THAT CONGRESSMAN PASSMAN LAST YEAR HAD TRIED TO PERSUADE THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT, BOTH IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THEIR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON AND DURING HIS BRIEF VISIT HERE, TO PLACE THEIR FREIGHT BROKERAGE IN WASHINGTON IN THE HANDS OF THE ST. JOHN'S MARITIME COMPANY. BDG HAD EVENTUALLY DONE THIS, GIVING ST. JOHN'S A SIX MONTHS CONTRACT FROM JANUARY ONE THIS YEAR. THIS CONTRACT HAD NOW EXPIRED AND THE BDG WAS FACED WITH THREE ALTERNATIVES: 1) RENEW THE CONTRACT WITH ST. JOHN'S; 2) MAKE A CONTRACT WITH A NEW FREIGHT AGENT; 3) RESUME ITS FORMER PRACTICE OF HAVING THE BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HANDLE THE FREIGHT AGENCY WORK ITSELF. FREIGHT BROKERS RECEIVED A COMMISSION OF ONE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT AND THE EMBASSY COULD OF COURSE ACCEPT NO COMMISSION; NEVERTHELESS, SINCE THE SHIP OWNERS PAID THE COMMISSION THERE WAS NO LOSS TO THE BDG AS A RESULT OF HAVING A FREIGHT BROKER.

2. DR. SATTER ALSO RECALLED THAT AFTER THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT TO ST. JOHN'S THERE HAD APPEARED A SERIES OF ARTICLES IN THE BANGLADESH PRESS AS WELL AS IN THE WASHINGTON POST CRITICIZING THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT'S ACTION, IMPLYING THAT SPECIAL INFLUENCES WERE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DACCA 03289 040532Z

RESPONSIBLE. THEREFORE A POLITICAL STIGMA ATTACHED TO THE

RENEWAL OF THE ST. JOHN'S CONTRACT ON THE ONE HAND, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND THE COMPANY HAD PERFORMED SATISFACTORILY FROM THE BUSINESS POINT OF VIEW. IN THE MEANTIME, CONGRESSMAN PASSMAN HAD BEEN "HORSE TRADING" WITH THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON ST. JOHN'S BEHALF AND HAD HELD OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT WORK FOR SUBSTANTIAL DELIVERIES OF BOTH TITLE I AND TITLE II GRAIN TO BANGLADESH. IN THIS CONNECTION CONGRESSMAN PASSMAN HAD MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE AND OTHER CONGRESSMAN MIGHT VISIT BANGLADESH TO SURVEY THEIR FOODGRAIN NEEDS. BEFORE MAKING HIS DECISION FROM AMONG THE SBNTHREE ALTERNATIVES, THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED SATTER TO SEEK MY ADVICE.

3. I SAID I REGRETTED THAT I COULD OFFER NO ADVICE. FOR ME TO APPEAR TO FAVOR ANY OF THE THREE ALTERNATIVES WOULD BE DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST ONE OR ANOTHER AMERICAN COMPANY, I SAID, AND THIS I COULD NOT DO. THIS WAS A DECISION THAT ONLY THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE AND IT SHOULD BE FREE TO TAKE THAT DECISION OF ITS OWN ACCORD.

4. DR. SATTER SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT THIS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE MY REACTION BUT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD INSISTED NEVERTHELESS THAT I BE CALLED IN. DR. SATTER SAID THAT THE ADVICE HE WOULD GIVE THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE TO RENEW THE CONTRACT WITH ST. JOHN'S FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS PERIOD, DURING WHICH TIME THEY COULD ALWAYS CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE OF RESUMING THEIR FORMER PRACTICE OF WORKING OUT OF THE EMBASSY AND THIS WOULD GIVE THEM TIME TO MAKE THE NECESSARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS PURPOSE.  
BOSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MARINE TRANSPORTATION, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975DACCA03289  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750232-0432  
**From:** DACCA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750783/aaaacvsc.tel  
**Line Count:** 90  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BANGLADESH FREIGHT AGENT IN WASHINGTON  
**TAGS:** PGOV, BG, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006